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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/541,661

05/17/2006

Pantaleo Piumelli

2502-1082

3434

466

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09/11/2009

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EXAMINER

RAMSEY, JEREMY C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3634

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/11/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/541,661	Applicant(s) PIUMELLI, PANTALEO	
	Examiner JEREMY C. RAMSEY	Art Unit 3634	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

The following office action is in response to the amendment filed on 05/15/2009. Claims 11-19 are pending in the application. Claims 11-19 are rejected as set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schijf 4,644,724.

In re claim 19, with reference to Figures 1 and 2, Schijf '724 discloses a sectional door comprising:

- A first profiled metal plate (1) and a second profiled metal plate (2) connected together to form an innerspace, filled with a foamed polyurethane insulant (column 3, lines 57-60).
- A first end running along a length of the body and having a outer substantially circular profile (6) and a more inner narrow connecting part (9), and a second end opposite the first running along the length of the body and having a recess (6') arranged to receive the outer part (6) of another panel with identical ends.

- A distance between the first and second longitudinal ends defining a panel height.
- Wherein the second end is centered on the medium plane of the panel and arranged to receive the more outer part (6) by manual insertion of the panels and thrusting the panels in the direction of the panel height. (Figure 3)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 11-14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rekret 5,718,276 in view of Kendall et al 4,589,240.

3. In re claim 11 with reference to Figures 4 and 5, Rekret '276 discloses a panel for sectional doors comprising:

- A first end having a outer substantially circular profile (15) and a more inner narrow connecting part (17), and a second end opposite the first having a recess (21) arranged to receive the outer part (15) of another panel with identical ends

4. Rekret '276 fails to disclose:

- Comprising a first profiled metal plate and a second profiled metal plate connected together to form an innerspace, filled with an insulant.

Art Unit: 3634

5. With reference to Figures 3 and 5, Kendall et al '240 disclose:

- Comprising a first profiled metal plate (16) and a second profiled metal plate (17) connected together to form an innerspace, filled with an insulant (12).

6. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the panels from two profiled metal plates filled with an insulant as taught by Kendall et al '240 in order to provide a unit of high structural rigidity and durability. (column 1, lines 65-68)

7. In re claims 12-14 and 18 the panels of Rekret/Kendall et al obvious disclose:

- The first end is obtained by the union of two arcs (splitting the outer part 15 of Rekret to be formed of two plates as taught by Kendall would produce two arcs), joined by a pair of tabs ((18)(19) Kendall) and radius joined to the body of the panel by shaped connection portions ((10)(19)(17) Rekret)
- The recess is formed the union of two circumferential arcs (splitting the recess (21) of Rekret to be formed of two plates as taught by Kendall would produce two arcs) joined by a pair of tabs ((18)(19) Kendall) and radius joined to the body of the panel by shaped fixing profiles (10)(11a).
- The shaped fixing profile portions (11a and opposite corner) are formed such that the access mouth (12) are positioned below the center of the recess (21) and have a minimum distance apart which is less than the diameter of the outer part (15).

Art Unit: 3634

- A sectional door formed from the panels. (Figure 5, Rekret)

8. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rekret 5,718,276 and Kendall et al 4,589,240 as applied to claim 11 and further in view of Martin 7,055,573.

9. In re claims 15 and 16, the panels of Rekret/Kendall et al has been discussed above but fails to disclose:

- The outer part is slightly inclined towards the interior of the space to prevent squashing of the fingers until the angle between the panels is $\pi/6$ radians.

10. With reference to Figure 4B, Martin '573 discloses:

- The outer part (56) is slightly inclined towards the interior of the space to prevent squashing of the fingers. until the angle between the panels is $\pi/6$ radians. (approximation from comparison between figures)

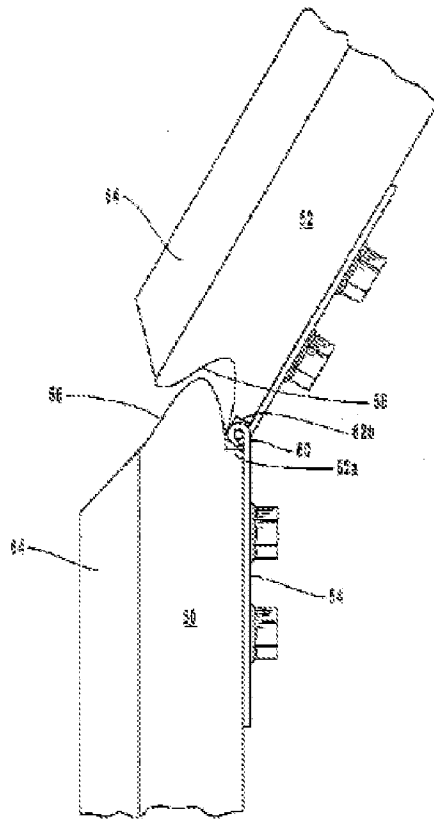


Fig. 4B

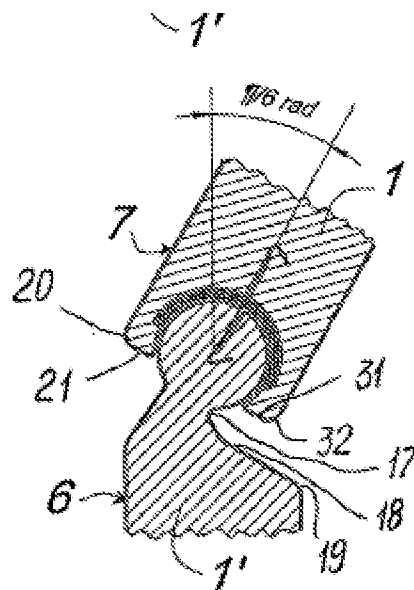


FIG. 6B

Art Unit: 3634

11. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the outer part inclined towards the interior of the space as taught by Martin '573 in order to reduce the gap section of a door and prevent injury due to the joint gap. (column 4, lines 35-41)

12. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rekret 5,718,276 and Kendall et al 4,589,240 as applied to claims 11 and further in view of Porta 5,075,927.

13. In re claim 5, the panel of Rekret/Kendall et al has been discussed above but fails to disclose:

- A plurality of half ring self lubricating material.

14. With reference to Figure 2, Porta '927 discloses:

- A half ring self lubricating material (36).

15. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a self lubricating material as taught by Porta in order to reduce friction, thereby extending the life and making for easier operation.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments filed 05/15/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

17. In response to the applicant's argument that the Rekret reference does not teach that the panels are coupled together by inserting them manually and thrusting them in the direction of the panel height, the examiner respectfully disagrees. In claim 11, the applicant does not state what defines the panel height and therefore does not establish

Art Unit: 3634

what thrusting the panels in the direction of the panel height means. In the Rekret reference, the panels could be used on a horizontally opening door, with the hinge portions running vertically. The connectors would then be inserted and thrust in the direction of the panel height when coupled.

18. In response to the applicant's argument that the Rekret reference does not disclose the coupling of claim 11 the examiner respectfully disagrees. The applicant states that a half ring of antifriction material is taught, however these limitations are never claimed.

Conclusion

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEREMY C. RAMSEY whose telephone number is (571)270-3133. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:30 am-4:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Mitchell can be reached on 571-272-7069. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3634

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KATHERINE W MITCHELL/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3634

/Jeremy C Ramsey/
Examiner, Art Unit 3634